Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Mangalore. As per the scheme, a second EPIP in a State could be considered only after the first one has been established and is found to be operating successfully. Subject to this "in principle" approval has been given for setting up of a second park at Mangalore.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Decline in Rice Export

2444. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp fall in India's rice exports in fiscal year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to boost up the exports of rice in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of Basmati and non-basmati rice exported during the last 3 years and 1999-2000 (Apr. - Dec., 99) is as under :—

(Quantity : lakh metric tonnes)

(Value : in Rs. crores)

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-basmati rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1996-97	5.23	1247.64	19.89	1924.72
1997-98	5.93	1685.62	17.96	1685.38
1998-99 (Prov.)	6.01	1866.25	43.40	4334.55
Apr.-Dec., 99 (Prov.)	4.16	1255.06	9.86	1090.40
Ap.r-Dec., 98	4.25	1319.90	33.17	3334.86

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The exports of rice would depend upon International demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, and varieties traded. Low international demand and better crop production in rice consuming countries has led to the shrinking of Indian rice exports during 1999-2000.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Central investment in industrial sector in Assam

2445. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the Central investment in industrial sector in the State of Assam during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Two development schemes, i.e. Growth Centres and Transport Subsidy are already being implemented with the objective of promoting industrial growth. In the 9th Plan, three new schemes have also been introduced for development of the North Eastern States viz. the Capital Investment Subsidy scheme, Central Interest Subsidy Scheme and the Comprehensive Insurance Scheme. These schemes have been notified but are yet to become operational.

The details of fund release made to the Assam during 9th Plan is given in the statement enclosed. (*see* below)